

ULTIMATE  
**MARVEL**  
**TEAM-UP**

ISSUE

9

Fantastic

&

SPIDER-MAN

Four







State your name, please.

Peter Parker.

Reason for visiting the Baxter Building today, Mr. Parker?

Uh-- I'm-- Uh-- from Midtown High. And I-- Uh-- was sent here as part of the Shadow Program.

I'm sorry?

I'm supposed to career-shadow Reed Richards. You know, it's when they have a High School kid, like me, follow someone, well, like Reed Richards around.

You know, like a shadow. And I was-- Uh-- supposed to come down here today and they told me this was all approved...and all.

And where did you get your extra human powers from, Mr. Parker?

What? No, ha ha, no! I don't have any--

Mr. Parker, our sensors are reading a level seven power surge.

Well, uh--

It's o.k. Mr. Parker. We certainly understand your need for confidentiality. We here at the Fantastic Four will respect that fully so--

Well, I-- I-- I-- I don't have any powers. I don't know what you're talking about.

Well then, I suppose the costume in your napsack is just for parties.





Ahh, here we are--yes.

Here's the form signed by Dr. Richards. All seems to be in order, Mr. Parker.

We are going to have to ask that you abide by the building ordinances and not wear your mask or use your powers while inside the Baxter Building.

And before we let you into the main facility, there is the orientation program.

Before you're allowed on the laboratory floor, it is required that you watch the following video.

Sit back and enjoy.

Uh, the what?

Video?

Can you believe it's already been a year since the amazing voyage that turned the Fantastic Four into America's first super-powered (non-mutant) peace organization?

Well, it has. And in that time America has come to know and love the Fantastic Four as if they were members of our own family.





Hi, my name is Patsy Walker and welcome to: The Fantastic Four—the first family of the fantastic.

It all started in the hallowed halls of M.I.T. where student Professor Reed Richards won the Nobel Prize for discovering the existence of what we refer to as "The Negative Zone."

A parallel dimension whose properties and sciences are a skewed and unexplainable version of our own.



Years later, Reed Richards discovered a way to break the barrier between dimensions—and found himself faced with the challenge to be the first interdimensional voyager the world has ever known.



Although Richards was offered considerable sums of money to fund this amazing voyage, he decided to fund this historic expedition himself—

—using the money he was able to accumulate from the numerous patents and scientific discoveries Richards had made since his youth.



Among those discoveries: the joy stick, Marshmallow Fluff, the compact disc, the kilowatt, surround sound stereo...MTV2, Hostess Twinkies, boxer shorts, mainstream acceptance of comics as an art form, rack and pinion steering, the screen saver, and so many, many, more...





Reed put together a crew of trusted friends and field experts to join him on this historic journey.

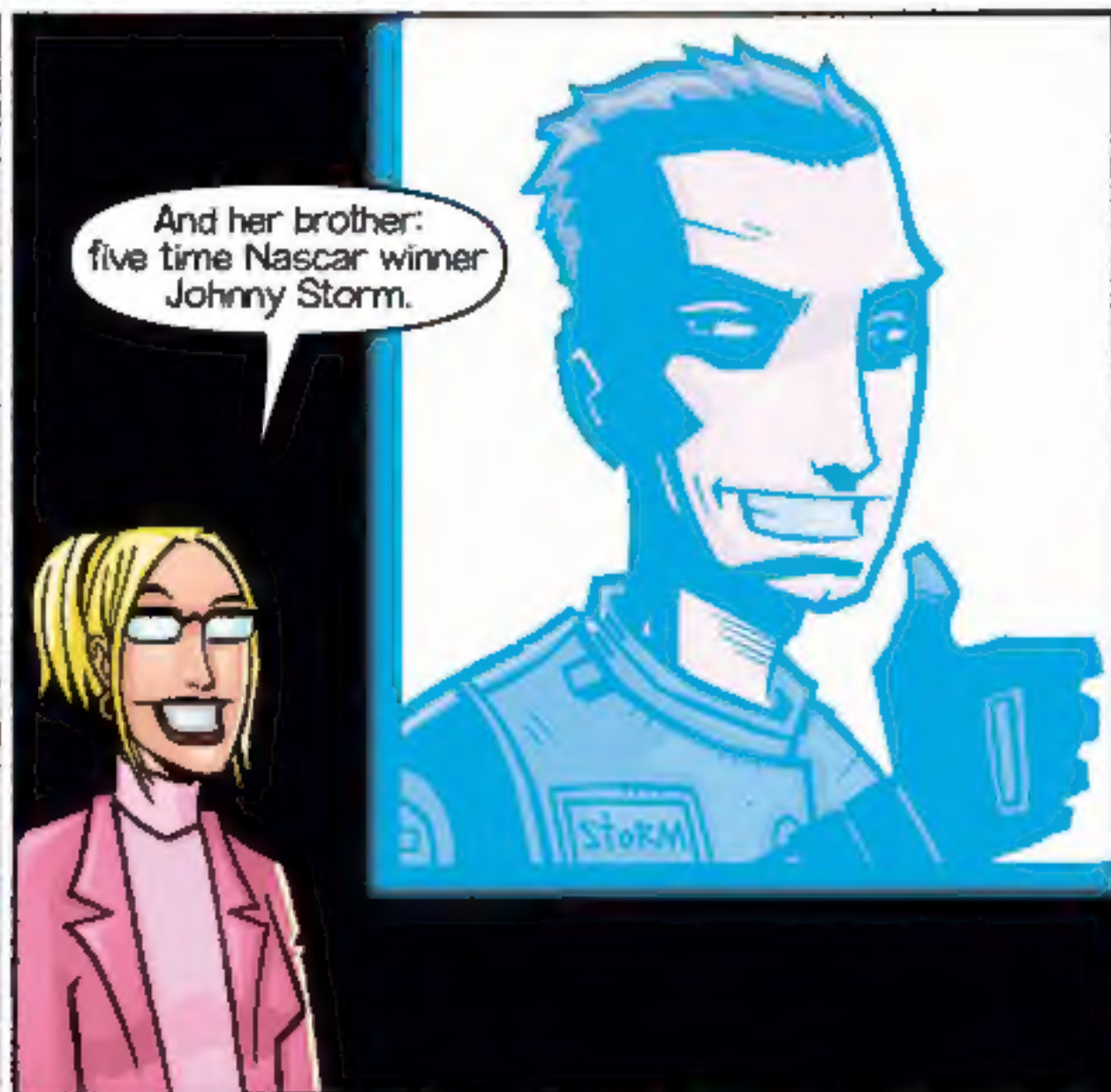


Ben Grimm-- United States Air Force Pilot and Reed Richards' best friend since childhood.

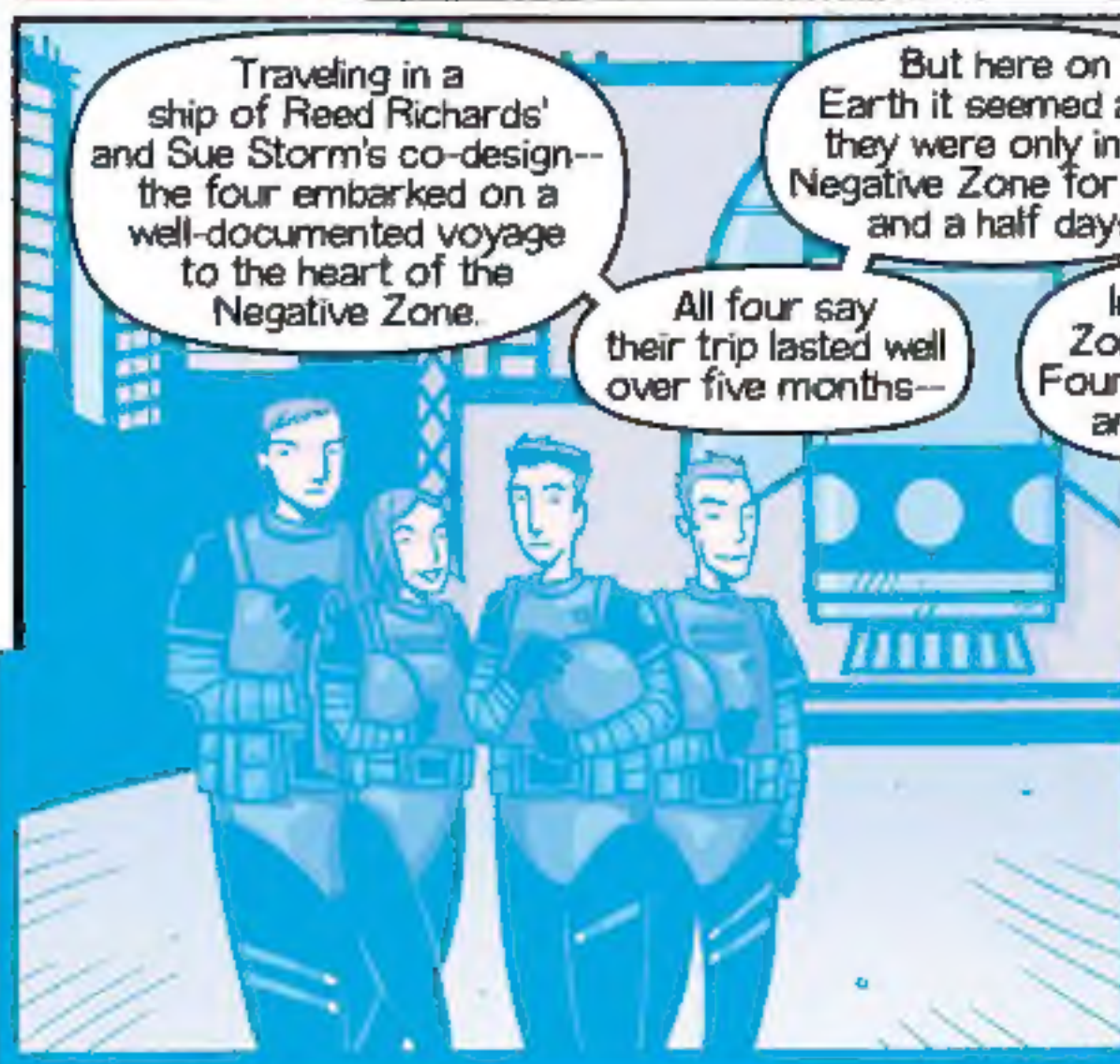


Fellow Nobel Prize winning astrophysicist Sue Storm.

(Who just happens to be Reed Richards' girlfriend since college.)



And her brother: five time Nascar winner Johnny Storm.

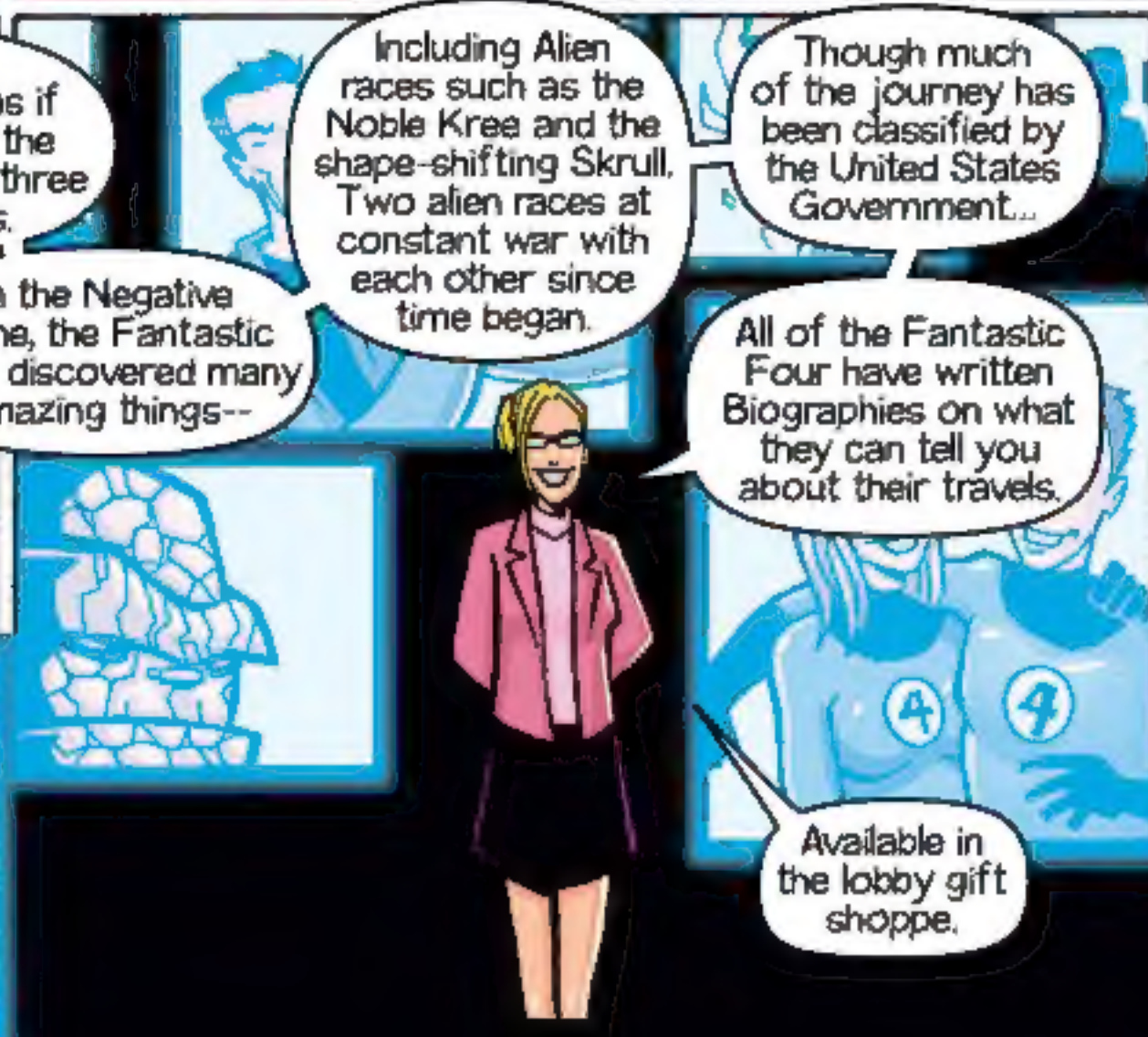


Traveling in a ship of Reed Richards' and Sue Storm's co-design-- the four embarked on a well-documented voyage to the heart of the Negative Zone.

But here on Earth it seemed as if they were only in the Negative Zone for three and a half days.

All four say their trip lasted well over five months--

In the Negative Zone, the Fantastic Four discovered many amazing things--



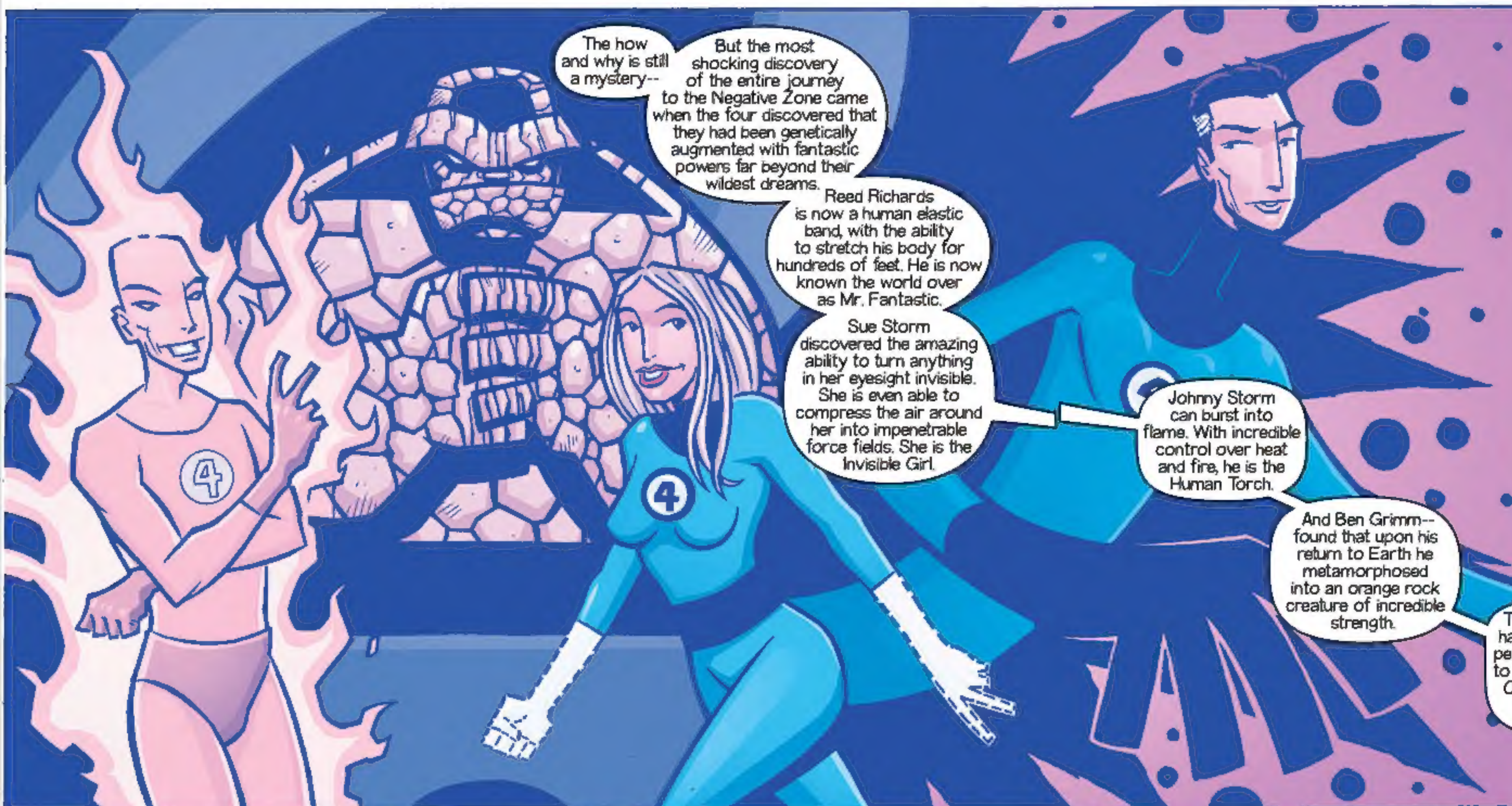
Including Alien races such as the Noble Kree and the shape-shifting Skrull. Two alien races at constant war with each other since time began.

Though much of the journey has been classified by the United States Government...

All of the Fantastic Four have written Biographies on what they can tell you about their travels.

Available in the lobby gift shoppe.





The how and why is still a mystery--

But the most shocking discovery of the entire journey to the Negative Zone came when the four discovered that they had been genetically augmented with fantastic powers far beyond their wildest dreams.

Reed Richards is now a human elastic band, with the ability to stretch his body for hundreds of feet. He is now known the world over as Mr. Fantastic.

Sue Storm discovered the amazing ability to turn anything in her eyesight invisible. She is even able to compress the air around her into impenetrable force fields. She is the Invisible Girl.

Johnny Storm can burst into flame. With incredible control over heat and fire, he is the Human Torch.

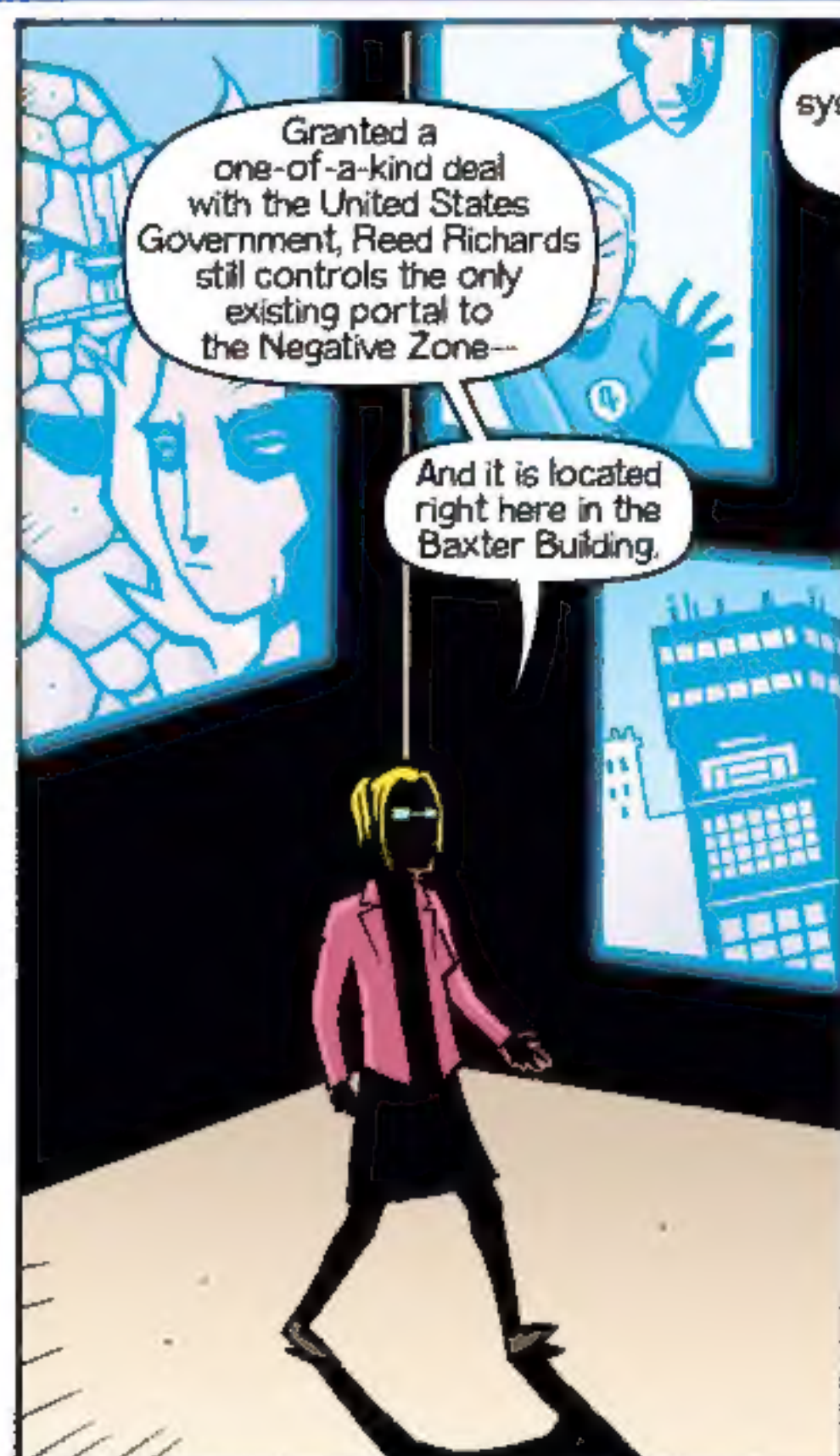
And Ben Grimm--found that upon his return to Earth he metamorphosed into an orange rock creature of incredible strength.

Though the media has dubbed his new persona "The Thing," to us he is Air Force Captain Benjamin Grimm. Ben to his friends.

--and their work here in the Baxter Building--helping to build a better tomorrow, today.

--they have split their time between the high adventure of World Peace officers--

Since the fateful day that these amazing powers turned them into the Fantastic Four--



Granted a one-of-a-kind deal with the United States Government, Reed Richards still controls the only existing portal to the Negative Zone--

And it is located right here in the Baxter Building.

The living computer system known as HERBIE keeps constant watch over the zone portal--

--conducting constant analysis on our neighbors from across space and time.



We must ask all visitors to the Baxter Building to follow these important plot devices--oops I mean rules.



**\*MUTANTS AND OTHER EXTRA-POWERED PEOPLE ARE ASKED NOT TO ENGAGE THEIR POWERS IN ANY WAY. DOING SO IN THE BAXTER BUILDING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND PUNISHABLE BY LAW.**

4

**\*DUE TO THE SENSITIVITY OF THE RICHARDS' ONGOING EXPERIMENTS WE ASK THAT YOU STAY ON THE RED STRIPES ON THE CENTER OF EACH FLOOR UNLESS SPECIFICALLY ASKED OTHERWISE BY REED RICHARDS HIMSELF.**

4

**\*ALSO, THERE IS TO BE NO TOUCHING OF ANY MACHINERY OR MECHANISMS WHICH ARE ONLY TO BE USED BY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS.**

4

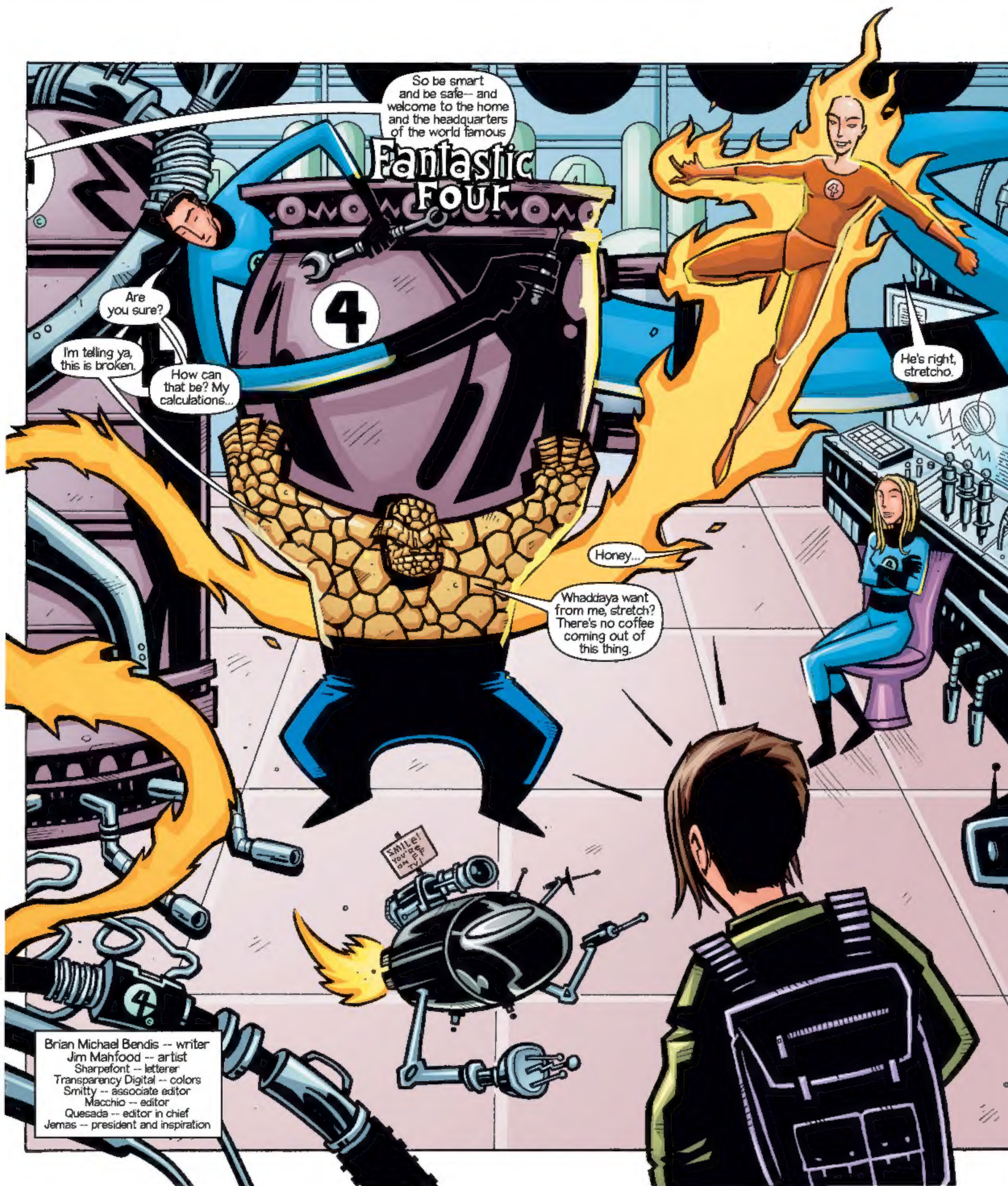
**\*THE THIRD FLOOR IS THE NEGATIVE ZONE PORTAL-- IT IS STRICTLY OFF LIMITS TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE. IT IS GUARDED BY ONE OF THE MOST ELABORATE SECURITY SYSTEMS ON THE PLANET.**

4



If you enter this area without proper authorization-- your life will be in danger.





So be smart  
and be safe-- and  
welcome to the home  
and the headquarters  
of the world famous

# Fantastic Four

Are  
you sure?

I'm telling ya,  
this is broken.

How can  
that be? My  
calculations...

4

Honey...

Whaddaya want  
from me, stretch?  
There's no coffee  
coming out of  
this thing.

He's right,  
stretcho.

Smitty!  
you've  
gonna  
fix  
this  
TV!

Brian Michael Bendis -- writer  
Jim Mahfood -- artist  
Sharpefont -- letterer  
Transparency Digital -- colors  
Smitty -- associate editor  
Macchio -- editor  
Quesada -- editor in chief  
Jemas -- president and inspiration



Hmmm...

You know  
Reed, you could  
buy a coffee maker  
at Wal-Mart for  
less than ten  
dollars.

I can  
fix this.

It's too  
big, honey.  
We need--

It's supposed to be big--it's  
an ultimate coffee maker.\*

Sigh...  
Namor...

What?

Nothing.

\*the word  
'ultimate'  
copyright  
Marvel  
Comics

How long  
is that going  
to take to fix,  
stretchpants?

Ben, just put  
it down and stop  
giving me grief.

I need my  
coffee or it's gonna  
get ugly in here.

Too late--  
snort!

Pipe down  
over there,  
hot stuff.

Reed, I  
need my  
coffee.

Will all  
of you  
just shut  
the--

Uh...  
Hello.

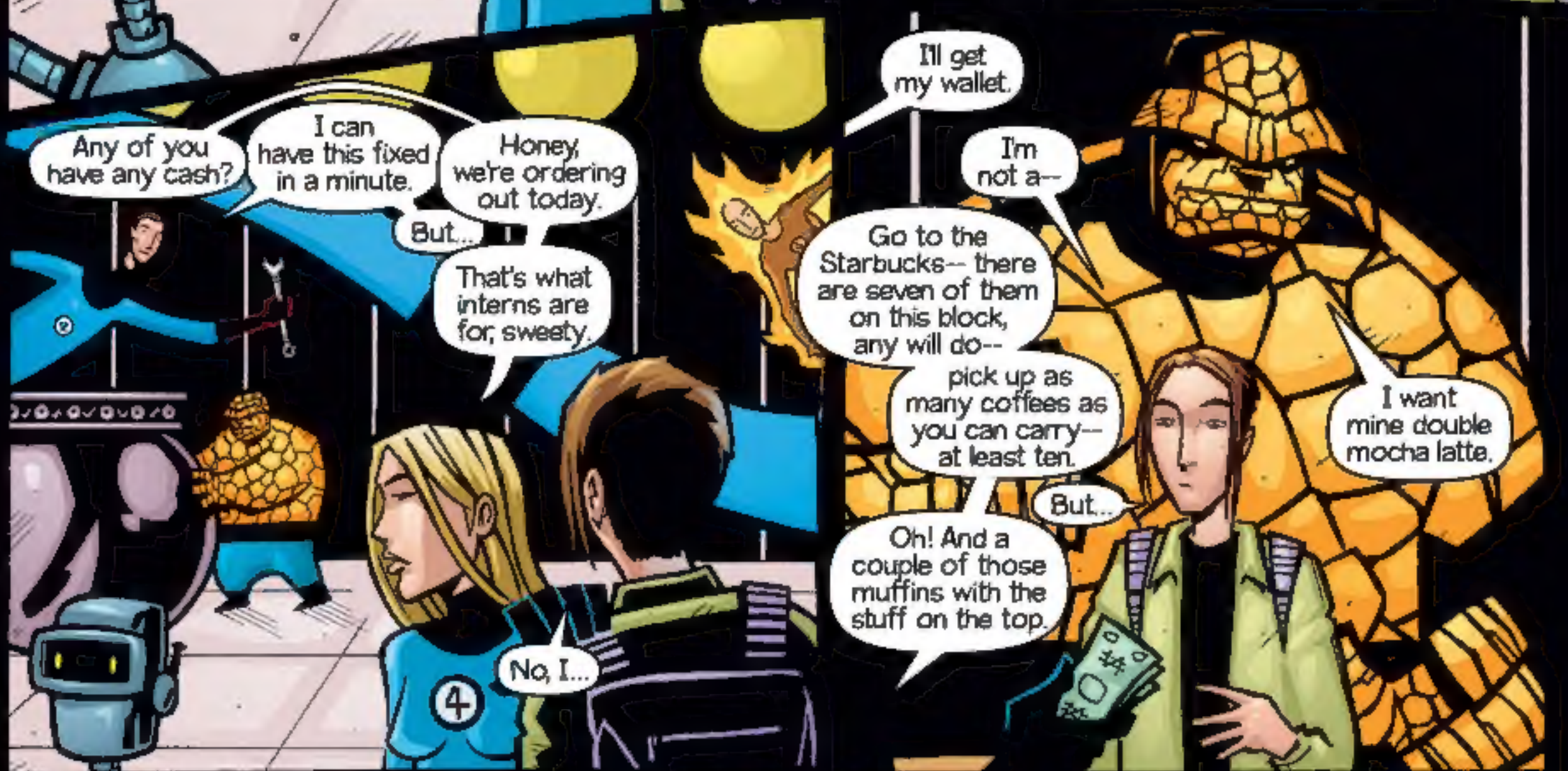




Well, we are certainly glad to see you, young man.

Thank Galactus!!

You are?



Any of you have any cash?

I can have this fixed in a minute.

Honey, we're ordering out today.

But...

That's what interns are for, sweetie.

I'll get my wallet.

I'm not a--

Go to the Starbucks-- there are seven of them on this block, any will do--

pick up as many coffees as you can carry-- at least ten.

But...

Oh! And a couple of those muffins with the stuff on the top.

I want mine double mocha latte.

No, I...



And get a little something for yourself.

Double mocha latte? Hey kid, while you're out will you pick the big guy up a dress?

All right, hot shot, you've been cruisin' for a bruise all mornin' and now you're gonna--





The alarm  
has sounded!! Our  
call to action!!

Everyone--  
to the Situation  
Room!

Yeah-- Uh--  
We know, honey--  
We're all in the  
same room.

FLAME ON!!

'Flame on?'  
You're already  
lit up.

So... I like  
to yell it.

Yea, I got a  
theory about  
that.

...But I'm  
not your  
intern...





Get your coffee?  
You get your coffee. I'm  
a super hero too, you  
know. I was a super hero  
before it was cool.

I took down  
the Kingpin and I—  
ok well, that's all  
I did. But it's  
still something.



'Get some coffee.'  
How about I kick  
all your @#\$%N'  
@#\$%\*^!!



How do you  
even get out of this place?  
Guy found another  
@#\$%&#\$^\* dimension—

he can't buy a  
doorknob like a  
normal person.



I should just  
take their @^\$%\*#\$  
money and go  
@#\$%^&# home.

And what's with  
that Mr. Roboto, like,  
totally @#\$%^& outing  
me as\*%&^\$@#%N'  
Spider-Man.



You can't just go  
and blow a guy's secret  
!#@\$%^\*@\$ identity  
like that. Huh? Right?

I should sue them.  
And hey—I got my powers  
the way you're !@\$%^&#\$%  
supposed to!

Not by  
some lame—



Make me sit through  
that lame video, and  
now I gotta go get  
them @#\$%!\*@\$ coffee?

How bout I get your  
dysfunctional !#@\$%^\$^  
into group therapy?

Well, this is stupid.  
I'm not walking down  
sixty flights of #!\$%\$@N'  
steps. Maybe this floor  
has actual elevators...

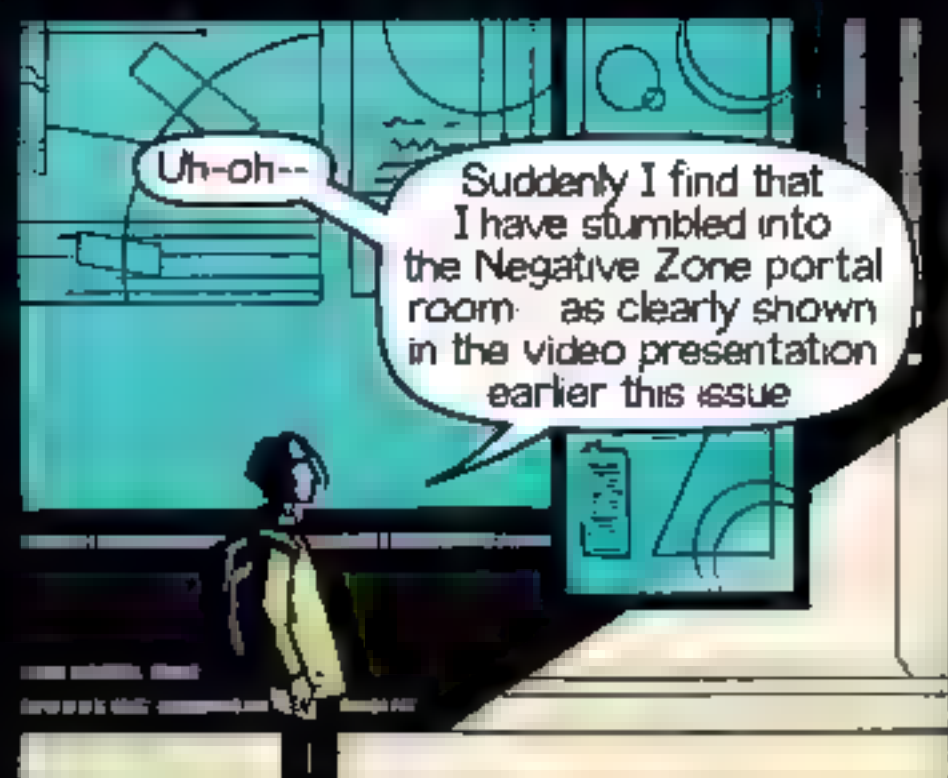


...and !@\$%^&\*&  
doorknobs...



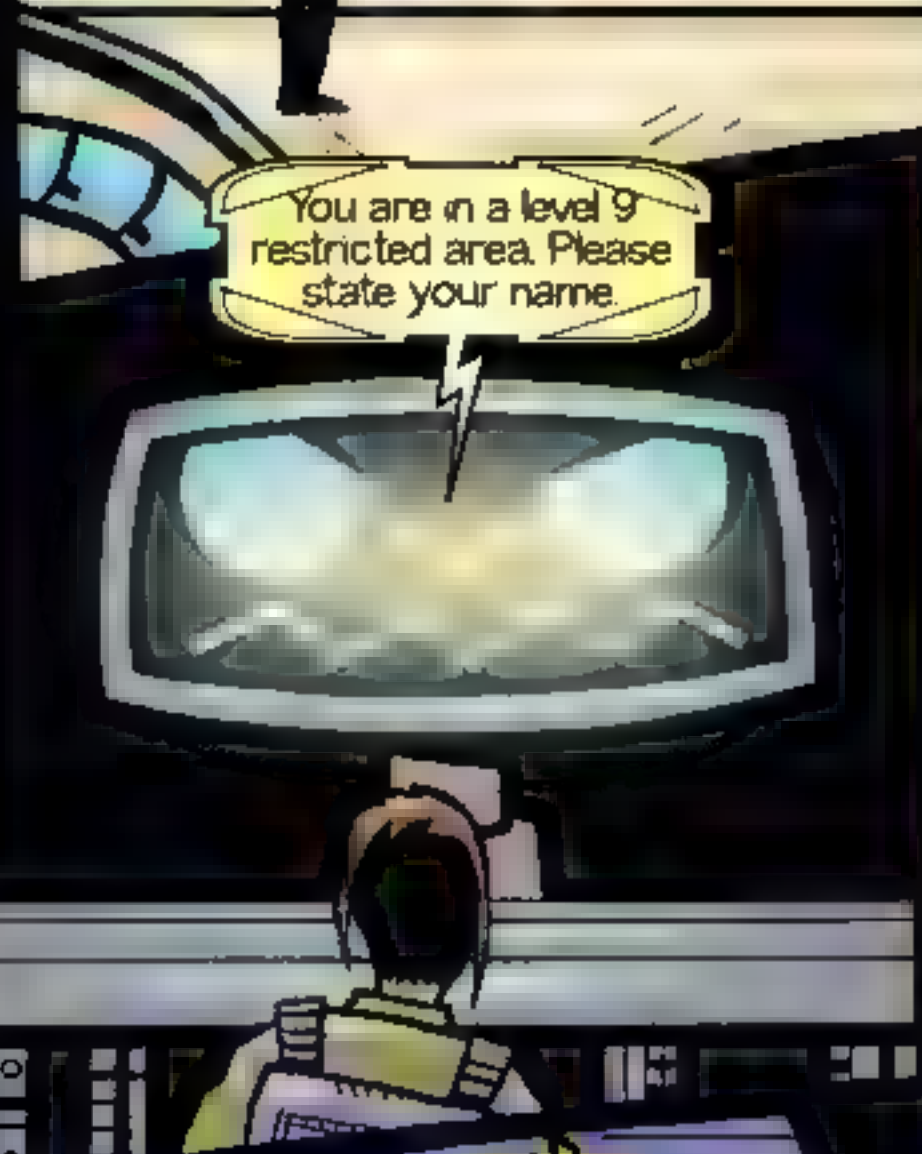
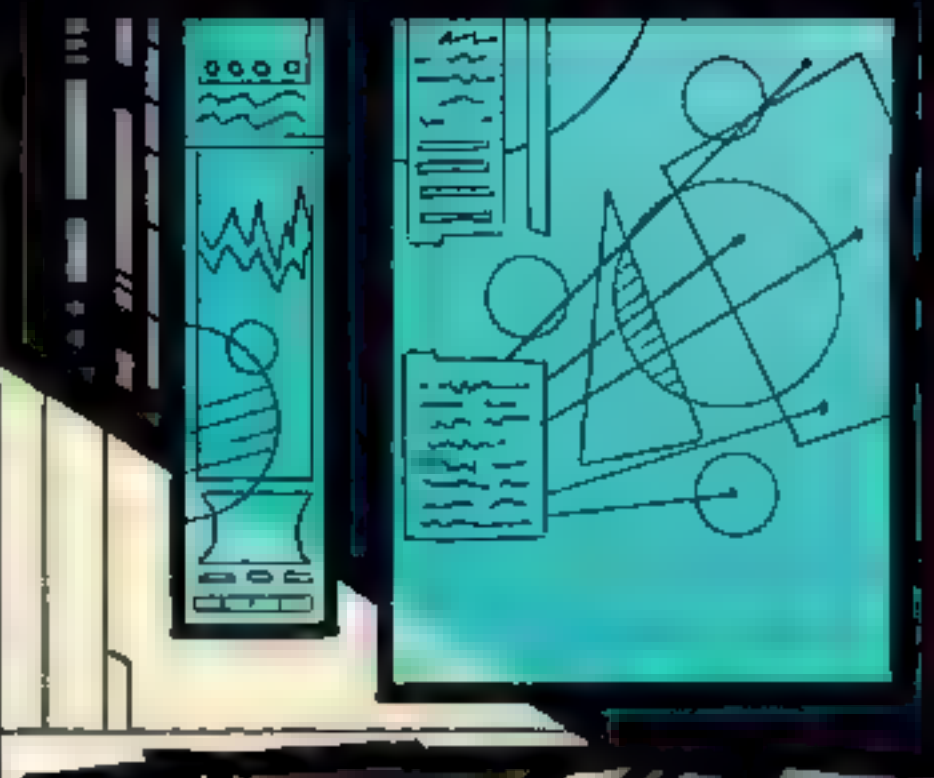
④  
**STAY ON THE RED  
STRIPED AREAS**





Uh-oh--

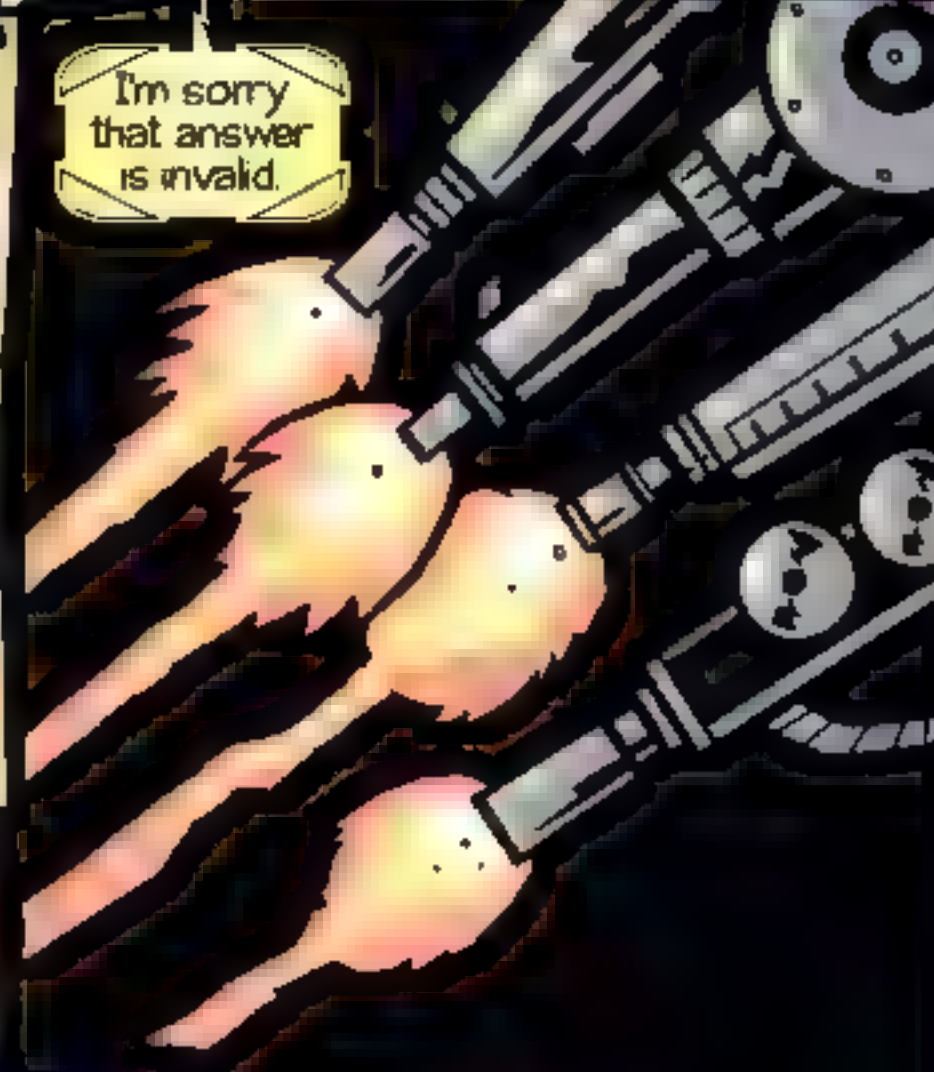
Suddenly I find that I have stumbled into the Negative Zone portal room-- as clearly shown in the video presentation earlier this issue



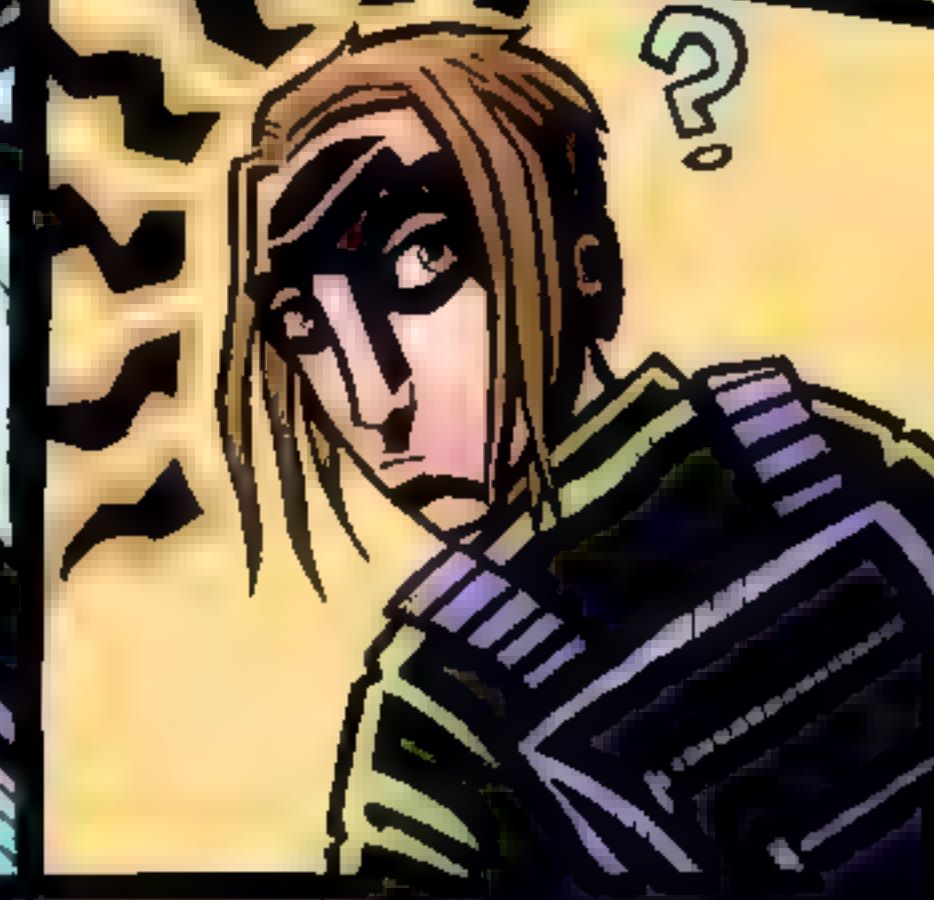
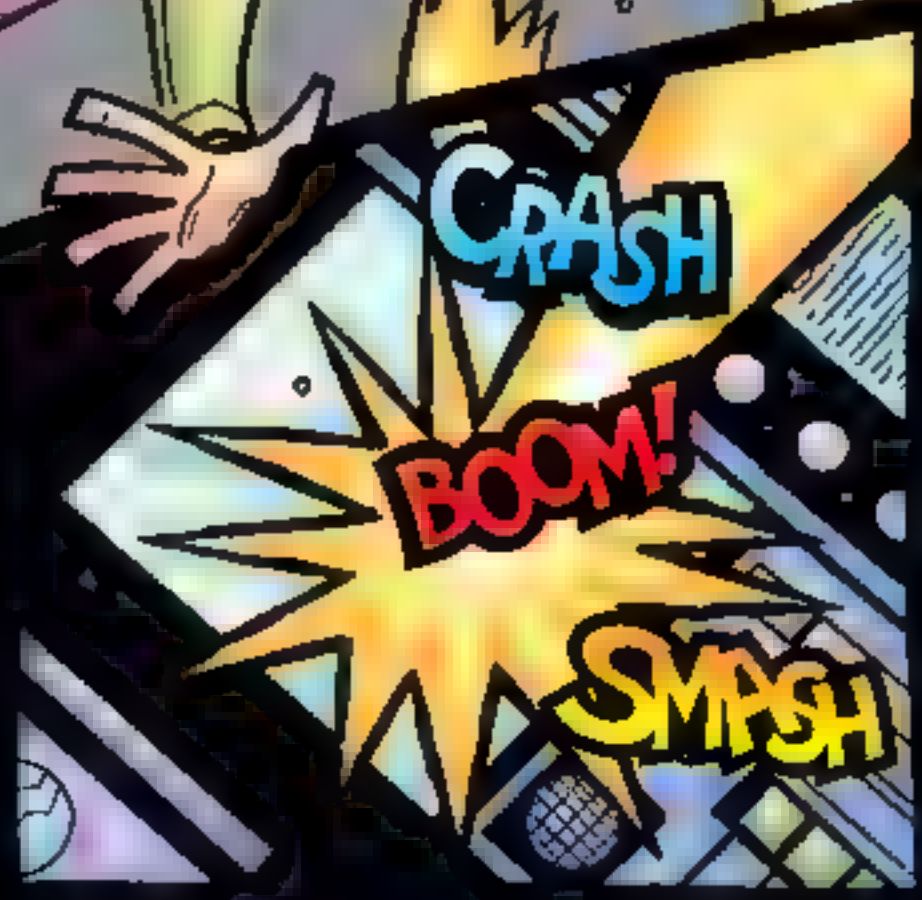
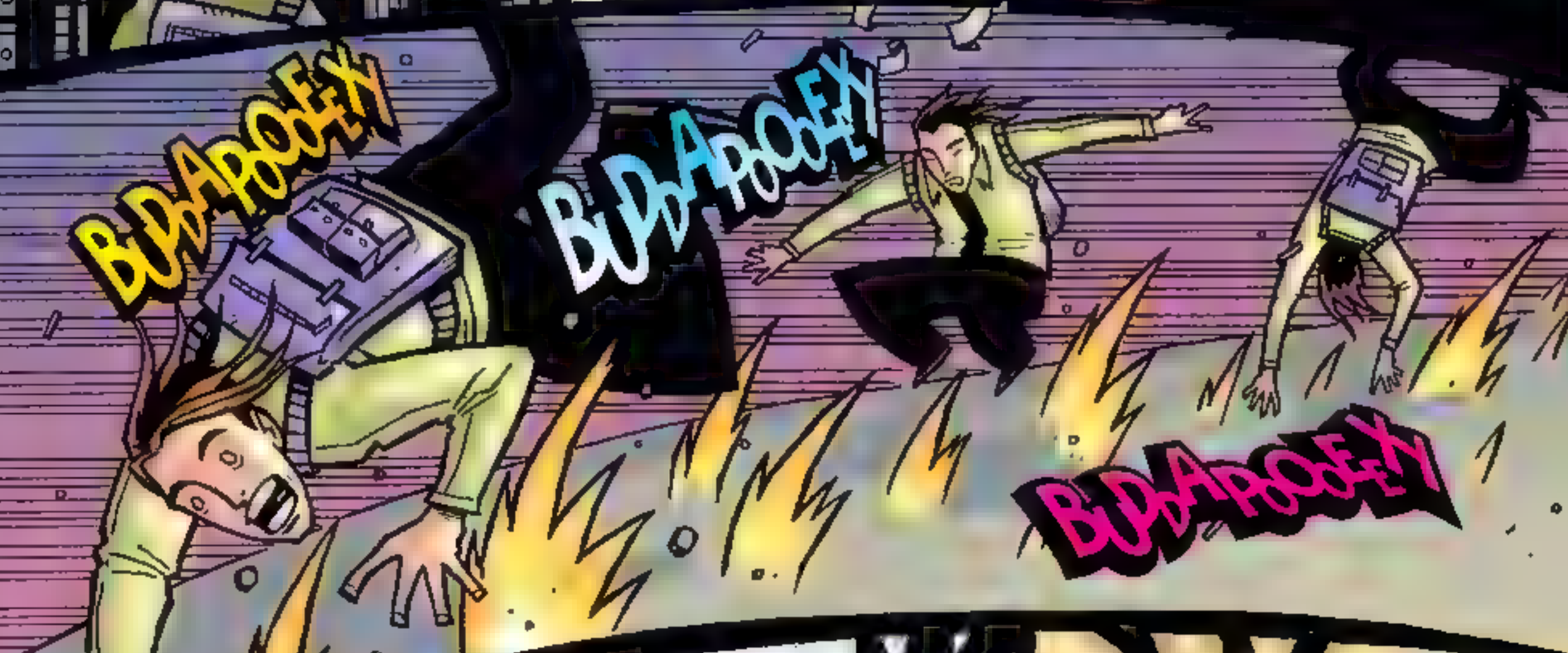
You are in a level 9 restricted area. Please state your name.



Uh-- I'm Peter. We met before in the--



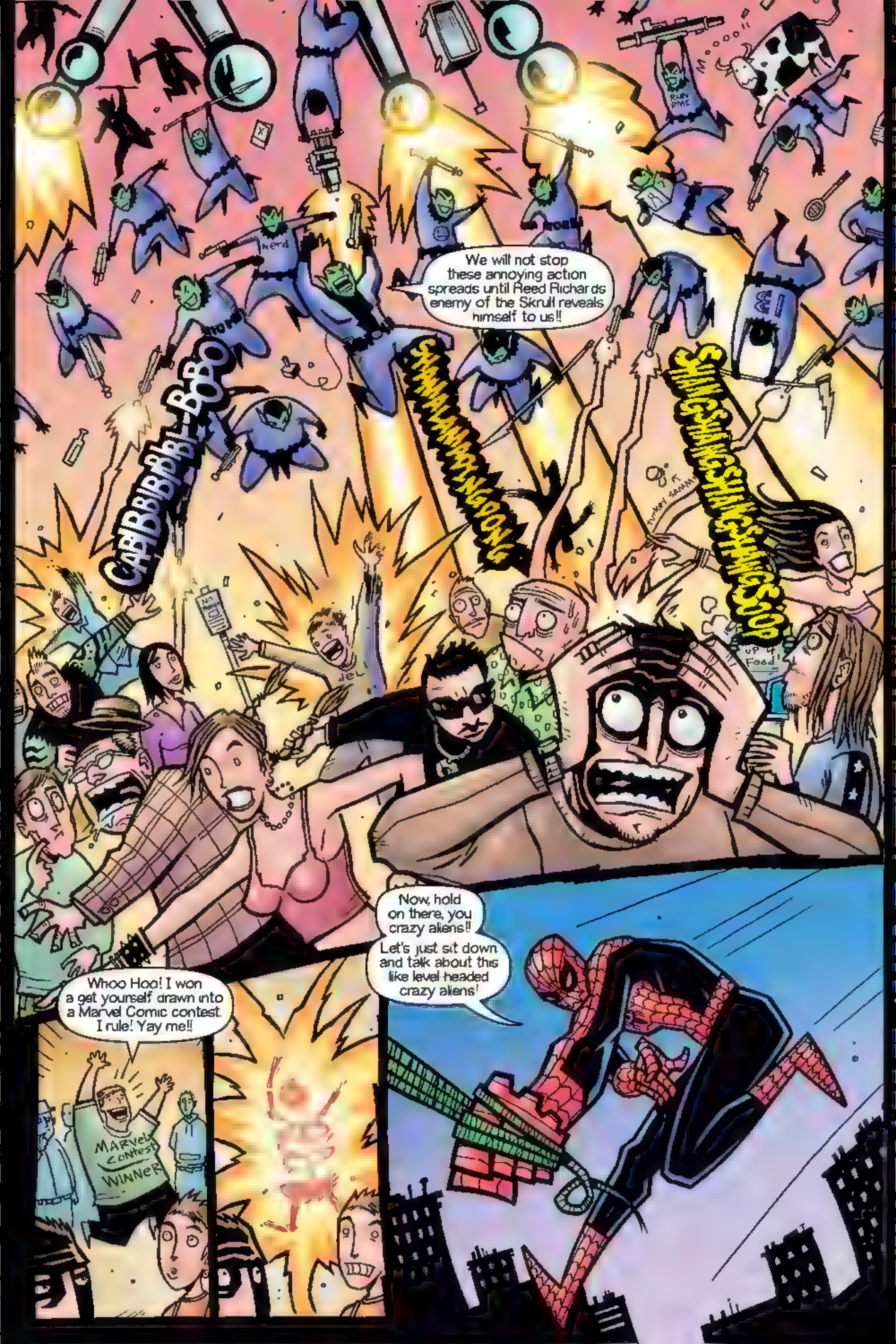
I'm sorry that answer is invalid.











We will not stop these annoying action spreads until Reed Richards enemy of the Skrull reveals himself to us!!

CARBIBBBI-BBO

SHAMALANWANGONG

SHINGSHINGSHINGSHINGSHING

Now, hold on there, you crazy aliens!!  
Let's just sit down and talk about this like level headed crazy aliens!

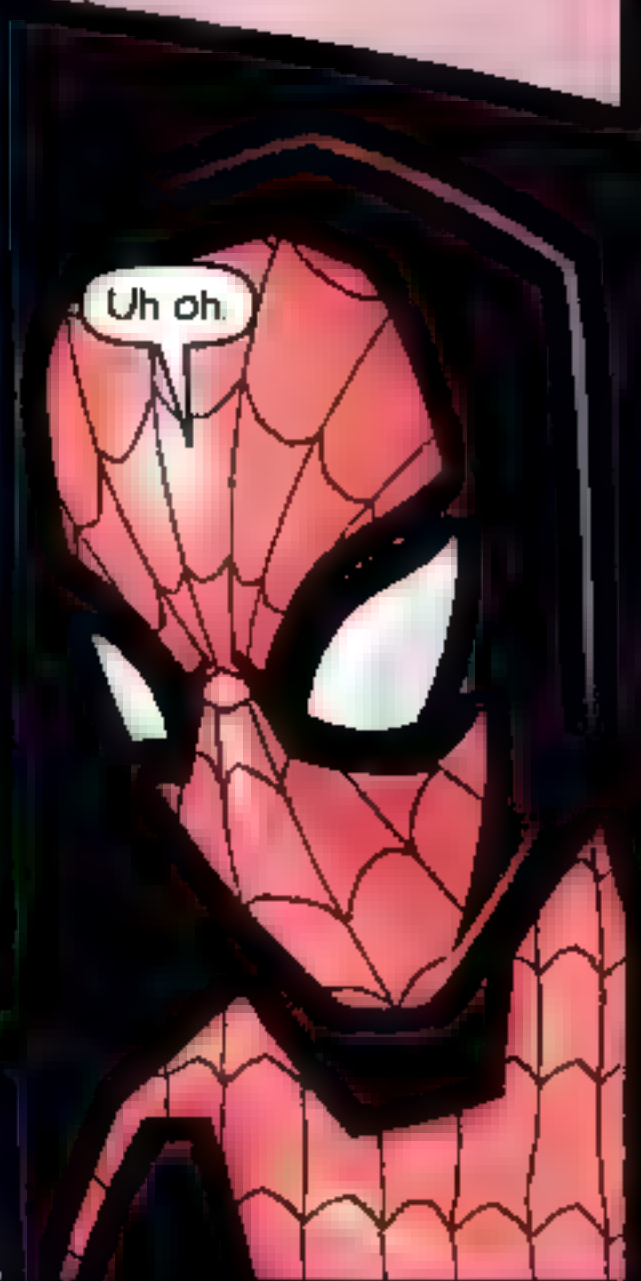
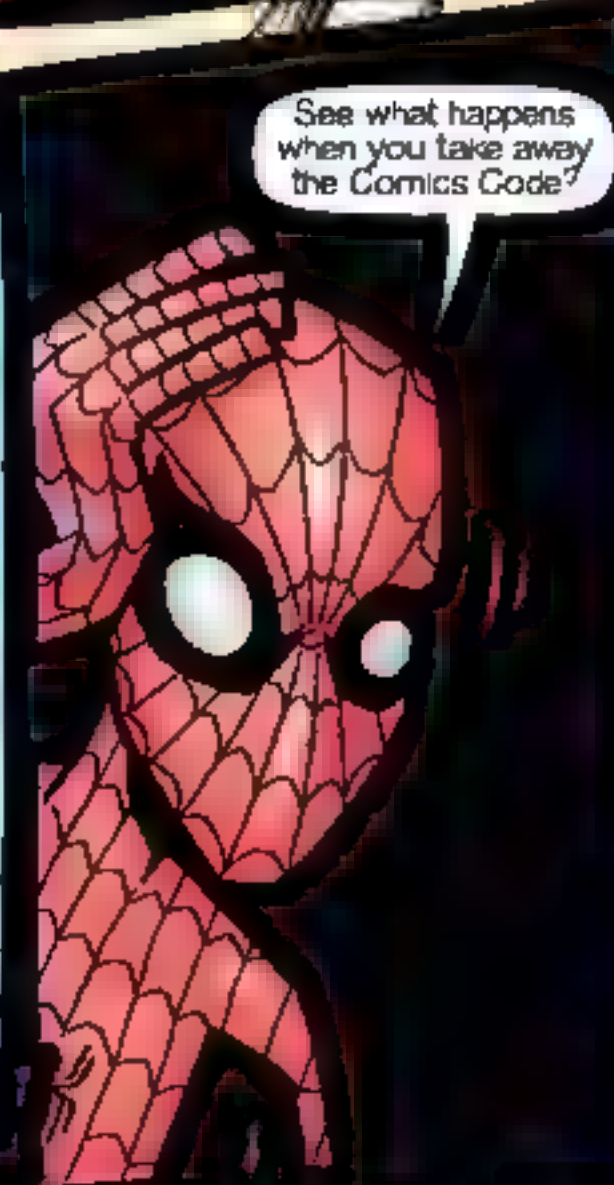
Whoo Hoo! I won a get yourself drawn into a Marvel Comic contest. I rule! Yay me!!

MARVEL CONTEST WINNER





\*Pathetic attempt by the writer to get his name mentioned on Stern again.





Meanwhile at the brand new offices of Marvel Comics.

Hi, is Martin Scorsese there?  
Hi, Martin.

This is Joe Quesada--  
Editor in Chief  
of Marvel Comics

Hi-- are you  
interested in writing  
a Marvel Comic?

Well, I was  
thinking The Punisher  
might be right up  
your alley. Its kind of  
a "Mean Streets"  
meets...Hello?

VENTIN TARANTINO  
JES ANDERSON  
OWEN WILSON  
MARTIN SCORSESE  
TERRY ZWIGOFF  
KEVIN SMITH  
M NIGHT SHYAMALAN

CALL MARTIN  
ABOUT  
PUNISHER  
FACED

deadline is  
MAR. 07 '98

GUY RITCHIE  
MIKE HEDDLESTON  
SPIKE LEE  
RICHARD DONNER  
GORDAN PARKS, JR  
SCOTT MOSIER  
RUSS MEYER  
GEORGE CLOONEY  
CHRIS ROCK

CALL MARTIN  
ABOUT  
ULTIMATE  
IRON  
SPRINGMAN

GEORGE LUCAS  
STEVE NIXON  
RIL HICKS  
MADONNA  
NACHOWSKI  
BROS  
JOHN GREEN

CALL MARTIN  
ABOUT  
PUNISHER  
IRON/FRANK  
ROCK  
CROSSOVER

Is Orson  
Welles there?  
He is?

Hello?

Oh, I  
didn't know  
that

Uh-- You  
don't happen  
to know Tim  
Burton's number,  
do you?

Hello?

ORSON WELLES  
KEELER SLIM  
SHUGRO OTIS  
MICHAEL MOORE  
FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA  
BARK HAYES  
JOHN SINGLETON  
PAUL REUBENS

CALL GUS  
ABOUT  
IRON/ALF  
CROSSOVER

JOHNNY  
SKRULL  
WAS HERE!

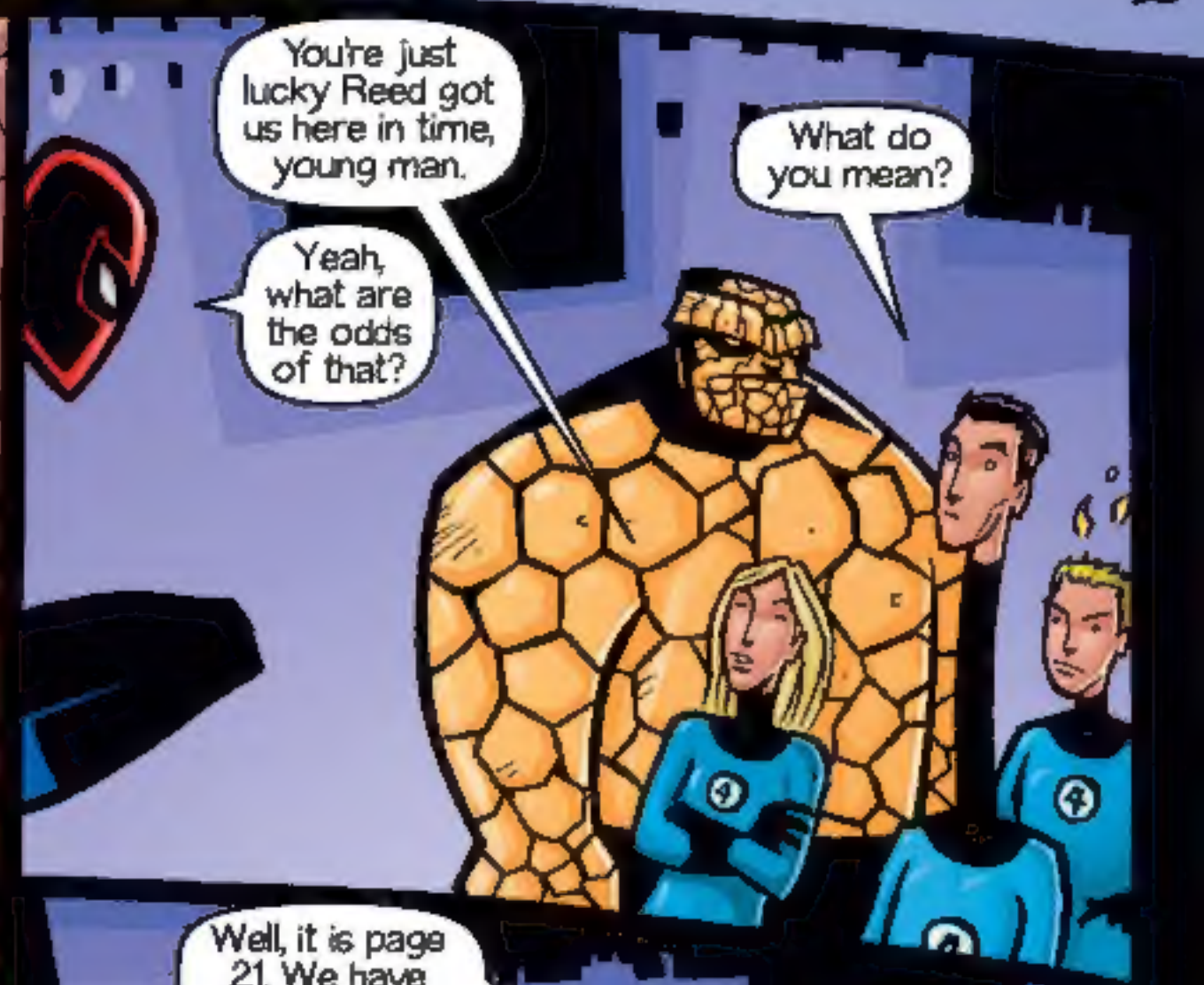




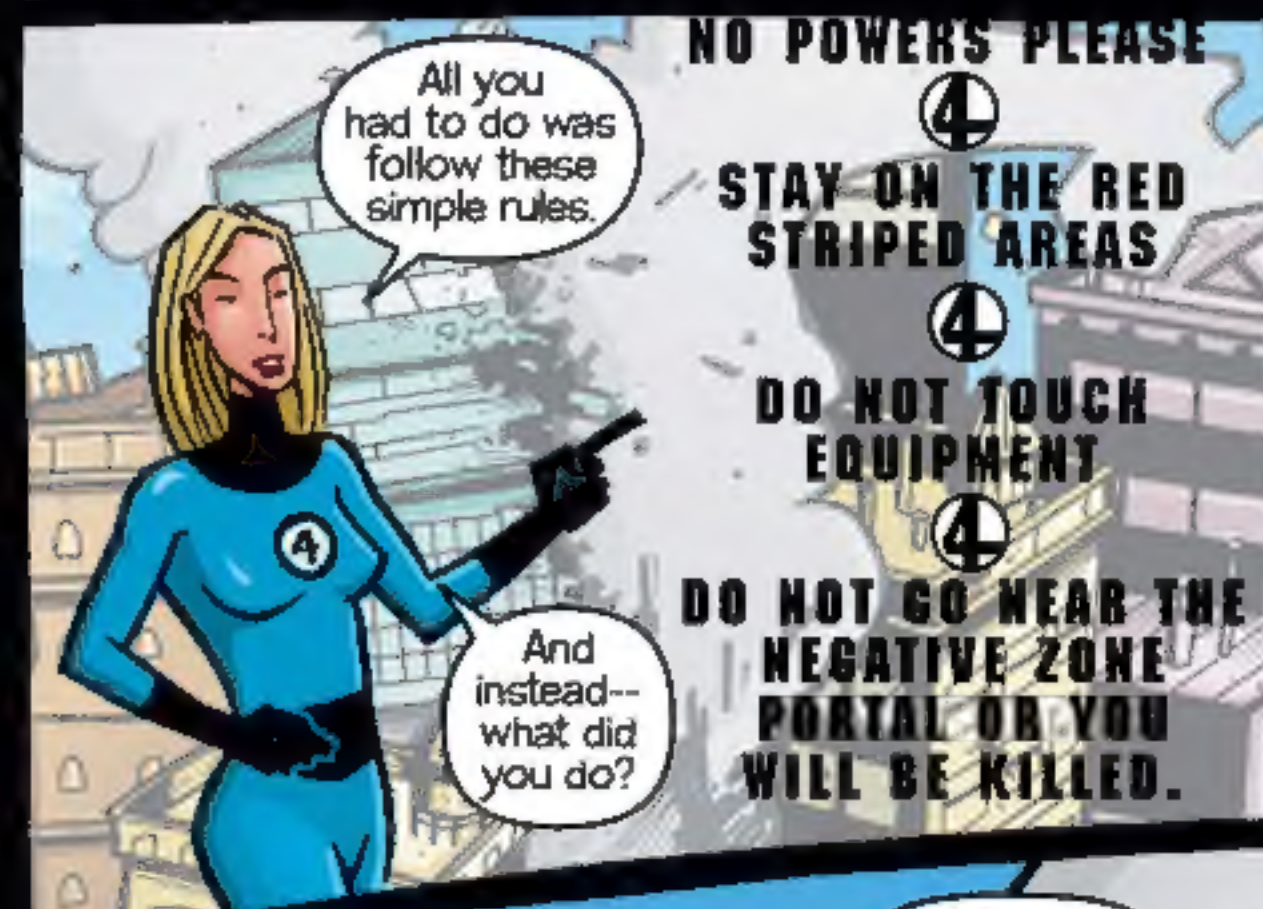












All you had to do was follow these simple rules.

And instead-- what did you do?

**NO POWERS PLEASE**  
**4**  
**STAY ON THE RED STRIPED AREAS**  
**4**  
**DO NOT TOUCH EQUIPMENT**  
**4**  
**DO NOT GO NEAR THE NEGATIVE ZONE PORTAL OR YOU WILL BE KILLED.**



Uh--I think you're mistaking me for somebody else...

...I never watched a tape with the rules.

And you didn't get the coffee either, did you?

I've never met you before.



Well, then, how do you explain this?

Half the Baxter Building is in the %\*#@ Negative Zone.



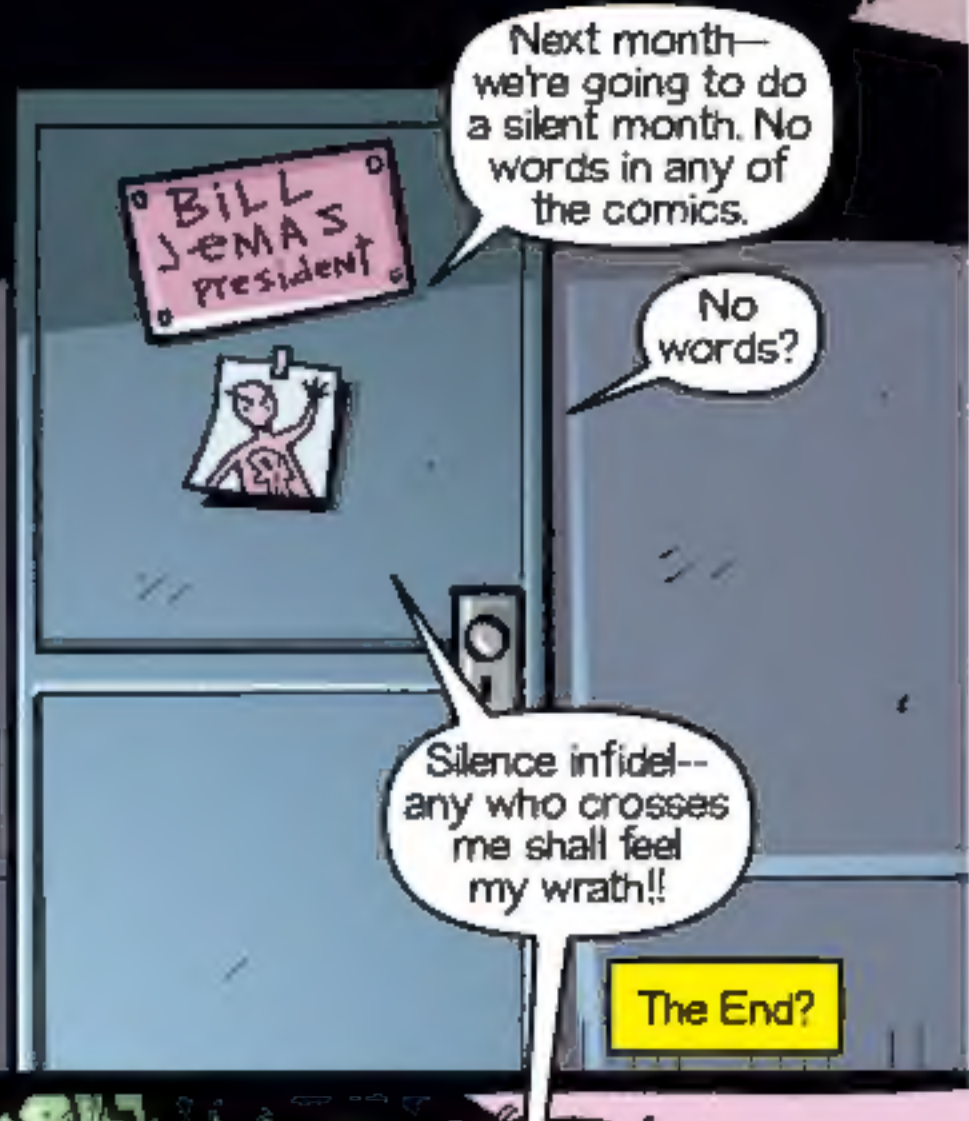
Sorry, don't know what you're-- Uh-- talking about? I am a mysterious super-hero and I have never even met you before. so...

Well, we're just lucky that they didn't start using their shape-shifting powers this time.

Shape shifters?

Yes the Skrulls can turn themselves into anything and anybody.

We were lucky. If they did that, we would never know where, or with what devious plot they would strike our planet with next.



Next month-- we're going to do a silent month. No words in any of the comics.

No words?

Silence infidel-- any who crosses me shall feel my wrath!!

The End?

**NEXT: BURN at the Touch of The Mad-Thing!**

(Uh-- We're Not Joking)



Bwaa  
Hahahaha  
hahaha!!